

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : U.S. National Stage of PCT/EP2004/053461  
Confirmation No. :  
Applicant : Qi Chen et al.  
Filed : June 16, 2006  
Title : Coupling  
TC/A.U. :  
Examiner :  
Docket No. : CHEN3968/FJD  
Customer No. : 23364

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Introductory Comments

Please amend this application before examination on the merits in accordance with the following particulars.

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of the application, please amend the claims as shown in the following LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS, which indicates the status of all the claims in the application and all amendments to the claims. Any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves all rights to the original disclosed and claimed subject matter.

**Amendments to the Specification** appear on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 6 of this paper.